

## REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed **July 16, 2003**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-10 and 12-25. Claims 1-2, 5-10, 12-13, 16-17, and 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi et al (EP 0 903 677 A2, hereinafter “Nakanishi”) in view of Fukuda et al. (USPN 5,890,153, hereinafter “Fukuda”) in further view of Smith (USPN 6,477,539, hereinafter “Smith”). Claims 3, 14, and 18 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nakanishi in view of Fukuda and Smith as applied to claims 1, 12, and 16 in further view of Sudhakaran et al (USPN 6,161,150, hereinafter “Sudhakaran”). Claims 4, 15, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi in view of Fukuda and Smith as applied to claims 1, 12, and 16 and further in view of Ho (USPN 5,615,373, hereinafter “Ho”).

### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 12, and 16 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nakanishi in view of Fukuda in further view of Smith. Applicant respectfully points out that Nakanishi teaches **locking hyperlinked pages** within a hypertext document so the hyperlinked pages can be edited (see Nakanishi, Abstract and col. 4, line 28 to col. 5, line 28).

In contrast, the present invention teaches **locking resources** such as devices, appliances, systems, and applications within a distributed computing system (see page 7, lines 15-19 of the instant application). Locking hyperlinked pages within a hypertext document is not the same as locking resources within a distributed computing system. Locking hyperlinked pages only allows editing of the hypertext document by multiple users without interference from other users. In contrast, the present invention allows controllers to lock resources within a distributed computing system to prevent controllers from controlling the same resources, which can lead to problems with conflicting policies being applied to a resource. There is nothing within Nakanishi, Fukuda, or Smith, either separately or in concert, which would suggest an advantage for locking resources within the distributed computing system so that only one policy can be applied to control a resource.

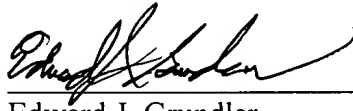
Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 12, and 16 to clarify this point. Support for this amendment can be found on page 7, lines 15-19 of the instant application. Applicant has also added new claims 27 and 28 which reinstate the limitations of original claims 11 and 26 respectively.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 12, and 16 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-10 and 27, which depend upon claim 1, claims 13-15, which depend upon claim 12, and claims 17-25 and 28, which depend upon claim 16, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

### CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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